

REMARKS

Introductory Comments

The present application includes claims 6, 8, 9, and 20-34, wherein claims 6, 22, 28, and 32 are presented in independent form. With this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 22 and 28 to place the claims in condition for allowance or in better form for consideration on appeal, and cancelled claim 23 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 6-9, 20, 21, and 32-34 and that claim 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As such, claims 6, 8, 9, 20-22, and 24-34 are currently pending in this application.

Applicants do not acquiesce in the Examiner's rejections, but instead have elected to make the above-mentioned amendments in an effort to expedite prosecution of this application leading to issuance of a patent. Reconsideration of the application as amended above and in view of the following remarks is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 22, 25-28, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 2,663,048) in view of Lawrence (U.S. Patent No. 746,636). Claims 24 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross in view of Lawrence, as applied to claims 22 and 28, respectively, and in further view of Kendall (U.S. Patent No. 4,417,738).

The Ross patent discloses caster units 25 and 26 coupled to a cabinet 10. The caster units 25 and 26 each comprises an upper plate 27 which is secured to the lower surface of the bottom 18 of the cabinet 10 as by screws 28. A lower plate member 30 is hingedly connected to one side of the upper plate member 27, as at 31. The lower plate member 30 extends downwardly at an angle from the hinge point 31 and is provided with a flat portion 32 which is disposed in substantially parallel relation to the upper plate 27 when the caster unit is in the lowered or operative position (Fig. 2). A cam shaft 47 is held against longitudinal sliding movement in a bearing 44 and is provided with a pair of spaced cams 60 and 61. The location of the cam shaft 47 causes the greater portion of the cams 60 and 61 to be turned

downwardly to engage the flat portion 32 of the plate 30 and to move the free edges of the plates 27 and 30 apart from each other. The caster rollers 40 and 41 then also move away from the upper plate 27 into an engagement with the floor F and lift the legs 20-23, inclusive, from an engagement with the floor F so that the cabinet 10 is supported by the caster rollers 40 and 41.

Lawrence discloses a hospital bedstead including a fixed foot b provided at a leg a. A pair of arms or links f pivotally support a caster bowl or runner g.

Claim 22 was amended to incorporate the limitation of objected to claim 23 and claim 23 was canceled. Therefore, Applicants believe that claim 22 is in condition for allowance. Removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 22 is respectfully requested. Claims 24-27 depend from claim 22. In that claim 22 is believed to be allowable, claims 24-27 are also believed to be allowable. Removal of the rejections and allowance of claims 24-27 is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 was amended to incorporate the limitation of objected to claim 23. Claim 28 now further recites a locking bar configured to move between a first position in which the locking bar engages the support bar and the support shaft is prevented from pivoting movement in at least a first direction, and a second position in which the locking bar does not engage the wheel, the support shaft, and the support bar, such that the support shaft is capable of pivoting movement in at least a first direction toward the locking bar; and wherein the locking bar further configured to engage a pair of the support bars supported by a pair of the wheels. Taken alone or in combination, Ross and Lawrence fail to disclose “wherein the locking bar is configured to engage a pair of the support bars support by a pair of the wheels.” Therefore, Claim 28 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 28 is respectfully requested. In that claim 28 is believed to be allowable, claims 29-31 are also believed to be allowable. Removal of the rejections and allowance of claims 29-31 is respectfully requested.

Final Remarks

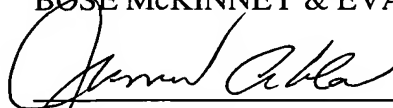
Applicants submit that claims 6, 8, 9, 20-22, and 24-34 are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, Applicants request that this Response be considered a request for an extension of time for a time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicants

request that any required fees needed beyond those submitted with this Response be charged to the account of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, Deposit Account Number 02-3223.

Respectfully submitted,

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